



## GUIDELINES

### ENTERING THE PROFESSION AS A REGISTERED HEARING INSTRUMENT PRACTITIONER

#### WELCOME TO THE PROFESSION OF HEARING INSTRUMENT DISPENSING

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide information and options to assist you in your path to entering the profession and becoming a registered Hearing Instrument Practitioner (HIP) in British Columbia. If you are currently practicing as a Hearing Instrument Practitioner in another jurisdiction, please refer to the College [bylaws](#) sections 71 and 72.

This profession is regulated under the provisions of the [Health Professions Act](#) and the [Regulations](#) for Audiologists, Hearing Instrument Practitioners and Speech-Language Pathologists. You are urged to become familiar with this Act, Regulations and the [bylaws](#) of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals.

#### I Educational Requirements

You must have a minimum of two years post-secondary education. Two years is calculated as a total of four semesters or 60 credits or 900 hours. Courses of less than one credit or 15 hours do not qualify. PLUS successful completion of an educational program in hearing instrument dispensing approved by the registration committee of the College. These include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- 1) International Institute for Hearing Instruments Studies (IIHIS). This is the minimum program of study required. [www.ihsinfo.org](http://www.ihsinfo.org)

- 2) Diploma from one of the 2 or 3 year Canadian diploma programs in hearing aid dispensing. These courses may be credited towards the minimum two year post-secondary education requirement:
  - a. Grant MacEwan Community College, Edmonton, AB, Hearing Aid Practitioner Diploma Program [www.macewan.ca/hearingaid](http://www.macewan.ca/hearingaid). (2-3 year diploma course – distance education program)
  - b. George Brown College, ON. Hearing Instrument Specialist Program [www.gbrownc.on.ca](http://www.gbrownc.on.ca)
  - c. Conestoga College, ON. Hearing Instrument Specialist Program [www.conestogac.on.ca](http://www.conestogac.on.ca)
  - d. Rosemont College, PQ
- 3) Accredited master's degree in audiology such as the UBC Masters Degree program in Audiology [www.ubc.ca](http://www.ubc.ca) (Full Time – B.Sc prerequisite) Other graduation programs are offered by: University of Western Ontario, University of Ottawa, University of Montreal, Dalhousie University.
- 4) Other diploma or graduate programs must first meet the approval of the registration committee. Please contact the college to first determine if such a course meets the requirements. [registrar@cshhpbcc.org](mailto:registrar@cshhpbcc.org)

#### II Practicum Supervision

You must **first** secure a practicum supervisor in order to submit your application as a HIP student to

the College. Application forms are available on our website: [www.cshhpb.org/registration.htm](http://www.cshhpb.org/registration.htm) Your supervisor must be a licensed/registered HIP in good standing in British Columbia for at least two years and may not supervise more than two students at any one time. You must be in the same location as your supervisor during your practicum training. For those applicants completing a course in hearing aid dispensing through IIHIS, you are encouraged to work under your supervisor while you are finishing your educational requirements. Applicants enrolled with Grant MacEwan must begin your practicum hours at the completion of your course work. Practicum hours will commence at the acceptance date of your application and must be completed within twelve months.

The number of hours you must practice under your practicum supervisor is dependent on your educational background. Credit will be given for supervised clinical practicum hours completed as a requirement of a diploma program in hearing aid dispensing or as part of a master's degree program.

The maximum number of practicum hours is 840 comprised of the following and **must** be completed within twelve consecutive months from the date your application has been accepted by the College:

**Constant Supervision** for the first 140 hours, (16%)  
**Close Supervision** for the next 350 hours, and (42%)  
**General Supervision** for the remaining 350 hours. (42%)

Upon completion of your practicum hours, you and your supervisor must complete and submit to the college the **Student Declaration** form attesting to the completion of your practicum hours and that you are ready to write the IHS examination, provided through the College. Upon receipt of this form, the College will advise you of the date for the next written exam (posted on our website). *Note: You cannot write the exam until you have completed your practicum hours and the college has received the Student Declaration form from your supervisor.* If you anticipate that your hours will be completed before the next exam sitting, you

may contact the college to tentatively schedule that exam date.

### III Written and Practical Exams

Exams are offered twice a year (spring and fall). The proposed dates are posted on the website.

The written exam is developed by the International Institute for Hearing Instrument Studies (IIHIS). It is an objective, multiple choice exam comprised of five scales which are based on the 5 core areas of competency. When you have completed or are near to complete your practicum hours, contact the college to enrol for the next written exam date. At that time you will be required to pay the exam fee, currently \$185. You will receive a Study Guide to assist you in preparation for the exam. At that time, further information will be provided about the exam, scoring and the procedure for writing the exam in areas outside Vancouver. You will be notified of your results within 3-4 weeks from sitting the exam. You must pass the written exam to be eligible to participate in the practical exam. If you do not pass the written exam, you may be granted up to a maximum number of three attempts to pass.

The practical exam is scheduled about six weeks following the written exam in the Vancouver area. You must make your own travel arrangements and arrange to bring a volunteer to act as your test subject. The fee for the practical exam is \$350 payable two weeks prior to the date of the exam. If you pass, you are then eligible to register with the College as an Active Registrant.

### V Fees

Summary of fees – due as per the schedule of fees on the Student Hip Form:

Application Fee:	\$225.
Written Exam Fee:	\$185.
Practical Exam Fee:	\$350.
Registration Fee:	\$600.
Criminal Check Fee:	\$ 20.